

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. With this Amendment, Applicants add claims 11-15.

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Specification

Applicants have corrected some minor errors in the specification. No new matter has been added.

2. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 because it contains an informality. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that "receive" in line 3 of the claim should be "receiving." Applicants have amended claim 3 as suggested by the Examiner.

3. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiyama et al. (US 6,269,379) ["Hiyama"]. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites that an image storage and display system comprises an "image server [that] is provided with a storage control means that creates reversible compressed image data of an original image data, and at least one irreversible compressed image data, and stores in [a] storage medium said original image data or said reversible compressed image data, and said at least one irreversible compressed image data." The Examiner contends that Figure 1 of Hiyama discloses this feature because it depicts a storage control means 25 that is allegedly capable of creating reversible and non-reversible compressed image data and a storage medium 23.

To anticipate a claim the reference must teach every element of the claim. MPEP 2131.01. A non-limiting embodiment of the present invention stores reversible and nonreversible compression images of the same original image at the same time. The non-limiting embodiment of the present invention also manages the reversible and non-reversible compression images as different image versions of the same image.

Applicants submit that Figure 1 of Hiyama does not disclose that a reversible compressed image and an irreversible compressed image of an original image be stored in a storage medium. Hiyama discloses that the compression and storage of the image is in the alternative (reversible or irreversible, see col. 4, lines 58-60). Therefore, Hiyama does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination.

Because claims 2-7 depend on claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. They further distinguish from Hiyama by virtue of the features set forth therein.

For example, claim 2 recites that the “storage control means is capable of changing the compression ratio of said irreversible compressed image data.” The Examiner contends that compressor 25 of Figure 1 inherently controls the compression ratio of the image. Applicants submit that Hiyama is silent on whether the compression of the images is fixed or variable. The Examiner’s contention that a changing compression ratio is inherent to the controller is without support since it is possible to create images with just a fixed compression ratio.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 8-10 and for indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants hold rewriting these claims in abeyance until the matter regarding their base claims is resolved.

Applicants note that the Examiner's summary in the reasons for allowance does not accurately reflect the recitation in at least claim 10. Applicants submit that claims 8-10 are allowable by virtue of the features recited therein.

5. New Claims

With this Amendment, Applicants add claims 11-15. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of the features set forth therein. In addition, Applicants submit claims 11-13 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

6. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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